

**To: Title III & LEP Coordinators**  
**Cc: District Testing Coordinators**  
**Re: UPDATE: WIDA and ASSETS for 2014-15 SY**  
**DATE: May 5, 2014**  
**\*please forward to appropriate staff, as needed.**

The 2014-15 SY will mark the second year that districts will be implementing the WIDA standards for Idaho's English Language Learners (ELLs). As a reminder, Idaho belongs to the ASSETS consortium, whose work focuses, in part, on creating an online version of WIDA's annual English Language Proficiency test, ACCESS. The online version will be named ACCESS 2.0.

After Idaho districts opted to participate in the ACCESS assessment in Spring 2016, at the request of districts, the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) sought to provide districts with the WIDA ELL Placement Test, the W-APT, through a statewide pre-contract with WIDA. Unfortunately, we were recently contacted by WIDA and told that the original pre-contract offer could not be extended as originally thought. After running it by their legal department, we were informed that the W-APT could only become available once we are a full member state in the 2015-16 school year.

Due to this information, for the 2014-15 school year, the WIDA W-APT is not available for use by Idaho Districts. **In preparing for the 2014-15 school year, continue to use the IELA-ELL Placement Test to determine if a student is eligible for LEP services.**

If desired, but not required, a district may opt to use in tandem with the IELA-ELL Placement Test any additional English language proficiency assessment to gain further understanding of students' English proficiency.

For example, a district may choose to use the WIDA MODEL (Measure of Developing English Language), a series of English language proficiency assessments for Kindergarten through Grade 12. Educators can use MODEL as an identification/placement assessment for newly enrolled ELLs or as an interim progress monitoring assessment.

Because districts expressed the desire to make use of additional WIDA resources during this transition year, the state looked into purchasing MODEL kits for all public school districts; however, current funding would not allow us to do so. Upon reaching out to WIDA, we were given a generous offer. WCEPS, the organization which disseminates WIDA's copyrighted educational products, will extend membership prices, plus an extra 10% off, to district level purchases, through May 30<sup>th</sup>. For additional information on MODEL and how to order materials if desired, please see the attached document. **Again, districts are not required to use any additional measures beyond the IELA-ELL Placement test to determine if a student is eligible for LEP services.**

**WIDA & ASSETS Updates**

Up until recently, the updates in regards to WIDA and ASSETS have been minimal, in that Idaho's districts have opted to wait until the spring of 2016 to administer the ACCESS 2.0. Below are bulleted highlights of the progress ASSETS is making.

- ASSETS is one month into the 2014 ACCESS 2.0 Field Test. Idaho was unable to participate because we were unable to provide ACCESS historical test taking data for comparison purposes.
  - Even though Idaho is not participating in the ACCESS 2.0 field test, if you would like, you can view the student video tutorials of sample test items for the field test by visiting <https://wida.drcedirect.com/>, and selecting General Information and then the Test Tutorials tab.
- Subcommittee Updates:
  - The Accommodations, Accessibility, and Equity Subcommittee continued work on policy questions and recommendations for review by the Executive Committee/Steering Committee in April.
  - EL Definition Subcommittee continued work on finding common ground in defining English language proficiency and identification and classification of students as English learners, including use of the home language survey and associated processes.
  - Technology Subcommittee members attended a multi-state, multi-consortium technology requirements discussion in Austin, TX, hosted by the State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA). SETDA is planning to debut a website featuring technology information for all six multi-state assessment consortia this spring.

After the WIDA/ASSETS Annual Board Meeting the first week of June, it is our hope to provide you monthly, relevant updates.

### **WIDA National Conference: Creating Language-Rich Academic Learning Environments**

Registration is now open for the 2014 WIDA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia October 23rd – 25th, 2014. Register by May 31st to take advantage of the early bird discount and save \$100 on the registration fee.

For more information, visit <http://widaconference.us>.

For more information on the ASSETS Consortium, including theory to practice, implementation, and timeline, please visit <http://assetsproject.org/>

For more information on the WIDA Standards, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/lep//> , and click on the ELD Standards button.

If you have any questions in regards to the implementation of the WIDA Standards, please contact Christina Nava, Title III/LEP Coordinator. If your questions are in regards to the new

assessment system and/or the ASSESTS Consortium, please contact Nichole Hall, English Proficiency Assessment Coordinator.

*Nichole K. Hall*

English Proficiency and College  
Assessment Coordinator  
(208) 332-6933  
[nhall@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:nhall@sde.idaho.gov)

*Christina Nava, Ed.D.*

Title III/LEP Coordinator  
(208) 332-6905  
[cnava@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:cnava@sde.idaho.gov)

***Idaho State Department of Education***

PO Box 83720  
650 W. State Street  
Boise, ID 83720  
Phone: (208) 332- 6800  
Fax: (208) 334-2228

*Notice: The information contained in this e-mail from the Idaho Department of Education may be privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure. Persons who share such information with unauthorized individuals may face penalties under state and federal law. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this information is prohibited. If you have received this electronic transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete the copy you received.*